(c) and (d) As the satellite has been already destroyed in the low earth orbit of about 250 Kms, fragments/small pieces of the defunct satellite that would re-enter the atmosphere get burnt into pieces. Hence, there is no concern about the fall of the satellite. As per the reports, no loss or damage to any property is anticipated *per se*.

(e) As there was no threat to any of the Indian satellites in orbit and also there was no possibility of the pieces/fragments of the satellite falling over Indian region/earth, no special efforts were considered in this regard.

**Achievements of space programme**

2765. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's space programme is concluding shortly;

(b) what have been the achievements of the programme in brief;

(c) whether any activities are proposed to be taken up shortly based on the experience of developed countries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) India has achieved self reliance in the areas of (i) building state-of-the-art remote sensing and communication satellites and (ii) launch capability through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for launching of remote sensing satellites and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for launching communication satellites. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has used these space systems for developmental applications such as tele-education, telemedicine, Village Resource Centres, natural resources management, etc.

(c) ISRO has long term plans to develop Communication and Navigation Satellites; Remote Sensing Satellites; efficient space transportation system; space exploration; atmospheric sciences and inter-planetary missions. These plans are inline with the plans of developed countries.

(d) Does not arise.

**Review of minimum wages**

2766. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding National Sample Survey's situation report on farmer households;

(b) the average expenditure of farmer households per month;

(c) the wages of the agricultural labourers during 2007 and what was the same during 2001; and

(d) when was the last review of minimum wages carried out by various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G K. VASAN): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) conducted the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers as a

part of 59th round survey during January - December 2003. Details of the survey are brought out in 5 Reports. Subjects covered in these reports are given below:

| Report No. | Subject |
|---|---|
| 495 | Consumption Expenditure of Farmer Households |
| 496 | Some Aspects of Farming |
| 497 | Income, Expenditure and Productive Assets of Farmer Households |
| 498 | Indebtedness of Farmer Households |
| 499 | Access to Modern Technology for Farming |

The highlights of these reports are given in the Statement-I. *(See* below)

(b) The average monthly consumption expenditure of farmer households as per situation assessment survey of farmers, at all-India level was Rs. 2770 during Jan. - Dec. 2003.

(c) The average earnings (Rs. 0.00) per day received by casual wage labourers in agriculture sector during 1999-2000 were Rs. 35.62 and Rs. 42.52 in rural and urban areas respectively, as compared to Rs. 42.33 and Rs. 46.41 during 2004-05. The corresponding figures for the year 2007 and 2001 are not available.

(d) The State-wise minimum wages for agricultural workers along with the effective date of review is given in Statement-II.

***Statement-/***

*Details regarding National Sample Survey's situation reports on farmer households during January-December,* 2003

A. Highlights - Report No. 495

Consumption Expenditure of Farmer Households

* The average MPCE for farmer households at all India level during the year 2003 was Rs. 502.83 (less by 9.3%) compared to Rs. 554.15 for all rural households.
* The corresponding break-ups for food and non-food groups were Rs. 278.74 and Rs. 224.09 for farmer households (less by 6.6% and 12.3% respectively) in comparison with Rs. 298.57 and Rs. 255.59 for all rural households.
* At all India level the sex ratio in farmer population was 942 compared to 957 in all rural population. The figures corresponding to children and adults were 925 and 952 compared to 915 and 982 in all rural population.
* At all India level about 4% of farmer households had MPCE less than Rs. 225, 8% had MPCE less than Rs. 300 and 15% had MPCE less than Rs. 380. On the other hand, 7.5% of the fanner households had MPCE more than Rs. 950 and 26% had MPCE more than Rs. 615.
* The average household size for farmers was 5.5 at all India level. It was highest (6.9) for households having MPCE less than or equal to Rs. 225 and lowest (4.1) for households having MPCE more than Rs. 950. Also, average household size declined steadily over success five classes of MPCE.

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* At State level, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh registered highest average household size (6.1) for farmers, followed by Haryana (6.0) and Rajasthan (5.9). Whereas Tamil Nadu registered lowest average household size (4.4), followed by Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (both 4.7).

* The average MPCE during 2003 was highest for the farmers of Kerala (Rs. 900.59) followed by Nagaland (Rs. 882.93) and Punjab (Rs. 828.01).

* For the farmer households average MPCE during 2003 was lowest for Orissa (Rs. 341.75), preceded by Jharkhand (Rs. 352.85), Chhattisgarh (Rs. 378.89) and Bihar (Rs. 403.60).

* The sex ratio in farmer population was highest in Himachal Pradesh (1089), followed by Kerala (1048) and Uttaranchal (1014). It was lowest in Assam (849), preceded by Punjab (859) and Tripura (870).

* In terms of value of per-capita consumption of cereals, Manipur registered the highest *i.e.* Rs. 193.31 (33% of MPCE); then came Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 167.84 or 29%), Nagaland (Rs. 166.76 or 19%) and Mizoram (Rs. 150.77 or 23%).

* The consumption of cereal was lowest in Punjab (Rs. 73.46 or 9% of MPCE), preceded by Haryana (Rs. 74.01 or 10%) and Gujarat (Rs. 80.16 or 14%).

* The percentage share of all food taken together to total consumption expenditure was highest for the farmer households of Assam (65%); then came Jharkhand (64%), Bihar (62%), West Bengal (61%) and Sikkim (60%).

* An estimated 22% of the farmer households in Orissa, 11% in Jharkhand 8% in both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and 6% in Bihar had MPCE less than or equal to Rs. 225.

* About 57% farmer households in Orissa, 50% in Jharkhand, 44% in Chhattisgarh, 37% in Madhya Pradesh and 34% in Bihar had MPCE less than or equal to Rs. 340.

* On the other hand, 94% farmer households in Nagaland, 68% in Punjab, 67% in Kerala, 63% in Jammu & Kashmir and 59% in Haryana had MPCE more than Rs. 615.

* About 36% of the farmer households in Nagaland, 35% in Kerala, 28% in Punjab and 23% in Haryana had MPCE more than Rs. 950.

* Per capita consumption of pan, tobacco and intoxicants' per 30 days was highest in Meghalaya (Rs. 43.30), followed by Mizoram (Rs. 40.53), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs. 30.75) and Tripura (Rs. 29.96),

* Per capita monthly expenditure on education was highest in Nagaland (Rs. 77.21); then came Haryana (Rs. 48.01), Punjab (Rs. 42.87) and Kerala (Rs. 42.36).

* Per capita monthly medical expenses was highest for the farmer households belonging to Kerala (Rs. 97.78), followed by Punjab (Rs. 63.04), Tamil Nadu (Rs. 48.76), Maharashtra (Rs. 47.71) and Haryana (Rs. 46.98).

B. Highlights — Report No. 496

* An estimated 27% of farmers did not like farming because it was not profitable. In all, 40% felt that, given a choice, they would take up some other career.

* The break-up of members of farmer households by educational level was very similar to that of the entire rural population.

* Nearly 5% of farmer households had a member who belonged to a self-help group. Only 2% had a member who belonged to a registered farmers' organisation.

* About 18% of farmer households knew what bio-fertilisers were and 29% understood
what minimum support price meant. Only 8% had heard of the World Trade Organisation.

* Only 4% of farmer households had ever insured their crops and 57% did not know that crops could be insured.

* About 29% of farmer households included "a member of a cooperative society. Only 19% had availed themselves of services from a cooperative. Most of these households availed themselves of either credit facilities, or services related to seeds or fertilisers.

* Almost 48% of farmer households purchased their seeds and 47% used farm-saved seeds. Whereas 30% farmers replaced seed varieties every year, another 32% replaced them every alternate year.

* Fertilisers were used by 76% farmer households during the kharif and 54% during the rabi season. For 27% households, fertilisers were available within the village.

* Organic manure was used by 56% farmer households during the kharif and 38% during the rabi season. It was available within the village for 68% households during the kharif and 75% households during the rabi season.

* Improved seeds were used by 46% farmer households during the kharif and 34% during the rabi season. They were available within the village for 18% farmer households.

* Pesticides were used by 46% farmer households during kharif and 31% during rabi. Veterinary services were used by 30% during kharif and 22% during rabi. Only 1.5-2% of farmer households said facilities for testing of fertilisers or pesticides were available to them.

* Among the various agricultural activities covered in the survey, 96.2% of all land used for farming during the kharif and 95.1% during the rabi season was devoted to cultivation, including horticulture, sericulture and vermiculture. In case of leased-in land, 98.2% during the kharif and 97% during the rabi season was cultivated.

* The share of orchards and plantations in total farmed land was 3% during the kharif and 4% during the rabi season. In land farmed by Scheduled Caste households, the share of orchards and plantations was 1-2%.

* Fanner households possessing less than 0.01 hectares of land — who devoted only 14% of farmed land to cultivation—reported 69% of farmed land as used for dairying, compared to 0.35% for all farmer households taken together.

* Almost 50% of all land irrigated during the kharif season and 60% during the rabi season was irrigated by tube-wells. Wells were used to irrigate 19% of land during kharif and 16% during rabi. Canals accounted for irrigation of 18% land during kharif and 14% during rabi.

* An estimated 62% of net irrigated area during kharif and 69% during rabi was devoted to cultivation of cereal crops.

* Gross irrigated area accounted for 42% of cropped area during the kharif and 56% during the rabi season.

* About 79% of gross irrigated area during the kharif and 83% during the rabi season was irrigated without the use of any device. Around 5% was irrigated with the help' of diesel pumps and 4% with electric pumps.

* Of the farmer households using non-human energy for ploughing, about 47% used diesel tractors while 52% relied on animal power. Amongst those using non-human energy for harvesting, 59% used diesel-powered machines. Of those reporting non-human energy used for irrigation, 66% used diesel pumps and 33% used electric pumps.

C. Highlights — Report No. 497

* About 60 per cent of the rural households were farmer households engaged in farming activities like cultivatiohn, plantation, animal husbandry, fishery, bee-keeping and other agricultural activities.

* There was only one tractor per 100 ST or SC farmer households, while there were three per 100 OBC farmer households and 5 per 100 Other farmer households.

* Among large farmer households possessing 10 hectares or more land, there were 38 tractors per 100 households. For every 100 households with medium sized farm of 4-10 hectares, there were 18 tractors. For small farmers with land in the range of 0.4-1.0 hectare, there was only one tractor per 100 households.

* Tribal fanner households possessed larger number of cattle heads compared to farmers households of other categories. There were .173 heads of cattle per 100 Tribal farmer households. While SC farmer households had 98, OBC farmer households had 126 and the Others had 132 cattle per 100 farmer households.

* While ST/SC farmers had 40 to 45 buffaloes per 100 fanner households, the OBC and Other category had 78 to 80 buffaloes per 100 farmer households.

* Farmer households in the lowest monthly expenditure class or the poorest category had 31 buffaloes per 100 households, whereas the highest monthly expenditure class had 113 buffaloes per 100 households.

* Of the average monthly income of a farmer household, Rs.969 came from cultivation. Wage earning contributed Rs.819 while the non-farm business generated Rs.236 and income from farming of animals brought in only Rs.91 per farmer household. .

* Of the average monthly expenditure incurred by farmer households in purchase and maintenance of productive assets, 81 percent went for farm related assets, 13 percent for residential building and 6 percent for non-farm business.

* About 58 percent of the farmers kept some kind of farm animals. Households engaged in dairying spent on an average Rs.814 per month on dairy farming. Fanner households who kept poultry spent on an average Rs.129 per month on poultry farming.

' The break-up of the total annual cultivation expenses showed that 23 percent of the expenditure went for fertilizers and manure, 22 percent towards labour charges, 16 percent for seeds and 12 percent for irrigation.

* The survey found that the standard of living of the average farmer household measured in terms of total monthly consumer expenditure was no different from that of the average rural households at the all India level.

D. Highlights — Report No. 498

Indebtedness of Farmer Households

* At all-India level, estimated number of rural households was 147.90 million, of whom 60.4% were farmer households.

* Out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted.

* Estimated prevalence of indebtedness among farmer households was highest in Andhra Pradesh (82.0%), followed by Tamil Nadu (74.5%) and Punjab (65.4%).

* Estimated number of indebted farmer households was highest in Uttar Pradesh (6.9 million), followed by Andhra Pradesh (4.9 million) and Maharashtra (3.6 million).

* Going by principal source of income, 57% farmer households were cultivators. Among them 48% were indebted.

* Households with 1 hectare or less land accounted for 66% of all farmer households. About 45% of them were indebted.

* More than 50% of indebted farmer households had taken loan for the purpose of capital or current expenditure in farm business. Such loans accounted for 584 rupees out of every 1000 rupees of outstanding loan.

* Marriages and ceremonies accounted for 111 rupees per 1000 rupees of outstanding loans of farmer households. Among the States the proportion was highest in Bihar (229 rupees per 1000 rupees), followed by Rajasthan (176 rupees per 1000 rupees).

* The most important source of loan in terms of percentage of outstanding loan amount was banks (36%), followed by moneylenders (26%).

* Averge outstanding loan per farmer household was highest in the State of Punjab, followed by Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

E. Highlights—Report No. 499

Access to Modern Technology for Farming, 2003

* At all-India level, 40% of farmer households accessed various sources of information for Modern Technology for Farming.

* At all-India level, of the sixteen different sources canvassed for accessing information for Modern Technology for Farming, the most popular was 'other progressive farmers' with percentage of farmer households accessing information through the source as 16.7%, followed by input dealer (13.1%) and radio (13.1%).

* Percentage of farmer households accessing information through 'other progressive farmers' was highest in Andhra Pradesh (34%), followed by Gujarat (30%) and West Bengal (25%)

* Percentage of farmer households accessing information through 'input dealers' was highest in West Bengal (36%), followed by Andhra Pradesh (30%) and Gujarat (24%).

* Percentage of farmer households accessing information through 'radio' was highest in Jammu & Kashmir (36%), followed by Kerala (31%) and Assam (29%).

* The two most popular sources, namely 'other progressive fanners' and 'input dealer' were contacted by the farmer households mainly on 'need basis' or 'seasonally'.

* Among the farmer households accessing information for cultivation from 'other progressive farmers', 40% received information on improved seed variety', 31% on 'fertiliser application', 15% on 'plant protection' and 14% on 'others'.

***Statement-II***

*Daily rates of minimum wages for agricultural workers fixed by different States/Union Territory administrations under the minimum wages acts* 1948 *alongwith the effective date of review*

| SI. No. | Appropriate Governments | Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day) | Effective Date including revision of VDA |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Central Sphere | | 117.65-131.22 | 01.04.2008 |
| States/Union Territory | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 64.00 | 17.07.2004 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 55.00 | 18.08.2005 |
| 3. | Assam | 76.35 | 01.04.2005 |
| 4. | Bihar | 66.00 | 23.07.2005 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 69.00 | 01.10.2007 |
| 6. | Goa | 110.00 | 5.03.2007 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 50.00 | 01.04.2002 |
| 8. | Haryana | 135.00 | 01.07.2007 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 75.00 | 01.01.2007 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 66.00 | 06.06.2005 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 50.06 | 08.09.2006 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 71.26 | 01.04.2007 |
| 13. | Kerala | 72.00 for light work<br>125.00 for hard work | 26.05.2003 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 61.37 | 01.04.2006 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | Zone-I-72.00<br>Zone H-70.00<br>Zone 111-68.00<br>Zone IV-66.00 | 30.05.2007 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Manipur | 72.40 | 01.07.2005 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 70.00 | 01.04.2003 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 103.00 | 01.04.2007 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 66.00 | 01.02.2005 |
| 20. | Orissa | 70.00 | 01.05.2007 |
| 21. | Punjab | 100.70 (without meal)<br>91.00 (with meal) | 01.03.2007 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 73 00 | 20.07.2004 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 70.00 | 08.07.2005 |
| 24. | Tripura | 85.00 | 19.12.2007 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 100.00 | 01.08.2007 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 73.00 | 02.05.2004 |
| 27. | West Bengal | 71.13 (with meal)<br>74.33 (without meal) | 01.10.2007 |
| 28. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 130.00 (Andaman)<br>139.00 (Nicobar) | 16.10.2006 |
| 29. | Chandigarh | 133.46 | NA |
| 30. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 99.80 | 01.04.2007 |
| 31. | Delhi | 140.00 | 01.02.2008 |
| 32. | Pondicherry | | 21.09.2002 |
| | Pondicherry/Karaikal | 54.00 (for 5 hrs.) | |
| | Yanam | 55.00 (for 6 hrs.) | |

NA Not applicable

**Grant for Mithi River Development Scheme Under JNNURM**

† 2767. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has asked for grants for Mithi River Development Scheme under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when grants would be provided by Government for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra had submitted a project proposal for Development and Protection of Mithi River and its surroundings (Phase-II).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.